

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: DETECTIVE STEVE TRZPIS (ST), P# 8563

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE P. QUINTEROS, P# 9055 (PQ), LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1755 hours. Also present are Detective A. Ubbens (AU), P# 13119, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Hamm (MH), P# 6675.

PQ: Operator, this is Detective P. Quinteros, P# 9055 with the Force Investigation Team conducting a taped statement reference Event# 1710013519. The interview's being conducted with Officer Steve Trzpis. That's T-R...

ST: Z.

PQ: Z-P-I-S. Thank you. P# 8563. Call sign that day was PD68. Date of hire is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], current, uh, area command and unit, South Central Area Command PD.
His RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturdays and his hours are 1430 to 0030 hours.

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Um, that day, uh, he was in a unmarked patrol vehicle. This interview is in reference to an active shooter incident that occurred on October 1, 2017 at approximately 2208 hours in the area of 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119, which is the Manda- Mandalay Bay Resort. Today's date is October 3, 2017 and the time is 1755 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, Building C, third floor. Also present is Officer M. Hamm, that's Henry, Adam, Mary, Mary, P# 6775, which is with the PPA, and Detective A. Ubbens, that's Union, Baker, Baker, Easy, Nora, Sam, P# 13119 with FIT. All right, um, before we get started, um, let's start off with what you were wearing that day of the incident.

ST: Uh, I was in essentially what I have on now. I had a black, uh, 5-11 shirt and blue jeans. Um, when I responded to the scene I had my tactical vest, it's a black tactical vest. It has a large, uh, velcroed on Police badge on the front that says, "Police," and it is also the Metro logo sewn into it, and then large Police patch on the back. Had my, uh, riot helmet on. Uh, that was it for clothing.

PQ: And as far as, uh, weapons?

ST: I had my, uh, Glock 17 with a weapons mounted light that's attached to the vest. I also had my Glock 26 on my hip.

PQ: Okay, and any other, um, equipment, like, uh, handcuffs or anything like that?

ST: Uh, the tact vest has, um, extra magazines, um, I - I didn't have the Taser in with it, uh, which is a pouch, but, um, tryin' to think any other weapons. Uh, I think that's it. Flashlights, things like that, accessories but no - no other weapons.

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PQ: Okay, and then, um, did you have a body worn camera that day?

ST: I did not.

PQ: Okay. Um, so let's, um, let's start essentially what - from your perspective as, uh, for this incident is when you heard about it, how you responded and what you did during the incident.

ST: Okay. Um, we were at South Central Area Command, in our office. Uh, there was - there was four of us on the squad. Um, one of the other detectives in the office, uh, said, uh, "Did you hear the radio?" It was Detective Burg. He said there's an active shooter, or that's what came across the air. So, you know, we immediately, you know, turned up the radios and heard, "Active shooter possible at the Route 91, uh, concert." So, immediately, we gathered our gear. Um, at this point the radio traffic was startin' to come - a flow of it - sorry. It was silenced. Um, the radio traffic's startin' to come in a little bit more, so, uh, we're headed out to our cars. Details, at this point, were the possible shooter was inside the Mandalay Bay and shooting across, or at least, um, some version of that. So, we - we're drivin' an unmarked minivan, me and, uh, Detective Conover hopped in, and Detective Burg and, uh, Detective Edge are in their truck. We start headin' up the Boulevard north. We decide probably not a good idea to go in front of Mandalay Bay, so we decide to head up Russell. So, we go up Russell and come into the Convention Center side, the south side of the Mandalay Bay. When we go into the Convention Center side,

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we hit - has a road that wraps around east and then heads north into the Shark Reef area.

PQ: Okay.

ST: So, we go there. As soon as we come around the corner, we see two K-9 vehicles out front. So, we, uh, go up to the Shark Reef entrance, uh, to Sergeant Bitsko and, uh, K-9 Unit Newton were out front and they were gearing up. So, we gathered our stuff, um, we meet up with sar-, uh, Sergeant Bitsko. He hands me a shield and we wait for, uh, Detective Edge and Burg that were just behind us. When they get there, we form up, we have us six, so we enter from the Shark Reef entrance. So, um, at - at no point did I do radio traffic, uh, Sergeant Bitsko was doin' all the radio traffic, so he relayed, you know, that we had the strike team there and where we were entering from and so, we enter the casino there, um, navigate our way through, start callin' people out as we're navigatin' our way through. We get to the security tower. Uh, I believe at that point, Sergeant Bitsko directs Detective Burg to stay there for cameras, to try to access the cameras. We take the rest of us five and we, um, get directions to the elevator for the tower that faces the Boulevard. So, we head to the elevator. When we get to the elevator, there's two - two or three patrol units there, you know, in uniform and, uh, we get security to unlock the elevator for us, 'cause I guess they lo- had locked the elevator, so when we get to the elevator, another team had come to the elevator. It was, uh, Sergeant Matchko and several other officers, I'm not sure who it was. Um, so we head up. I think we - we probably had 10 guys in the elevator. So, we head up and we - at this point we had heard information that

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there was possible shooting on the 29th floor. So, uh, Sergeant Bitsko decides we're gonna get off on the 28th and work our way up. So, we get off on the 28th, um, it was Sergeant Bitsko, Newton me and there's a - I forget his name, I think his first name's Eric but he works out of Robbery. That was our stack of four. The other guys went with Sergeant Matchko to 29 I believe. So, we get off on 28, we clear 28. All three hallways were basically, we're - we're runnin' our active shooter stack, and we're just clearin' the hallway or any open doors. So, open doors were kicked in - we're goin' in and makin' sure. Um, so we get through 28, we pop up to 29, we clear 29. We go to 30, we clear 30, was it on 30? I'm sorry, on 30 - I believe it was 30. We come to 30 and there's already a - a - a squad on 30, so we cleared with them, that they were clearin' the floor so we hopped up to 31. So, we get to 31 and we're clearin' 31 and when we get to one of the other - the hallways, it's not the one that faced - when we get to the end of the hallway, it's not the one that faces the Boulevard. 'Cause we came up on the one that faces the Boulevard, and we could smell - you could smell the gun- you know, the gunpowder. So, we clear all of 31, but the hallway we end on is not the one under the suspect's room and we run into, uh, Levi there. SWAT officer. Uh, what's his last name? Hancock. So, we run into Levi in 31 and he says - we were gonna head up, he says, "Let's - let's shoot back to the hallway underneath the suspect and let's head up from that stairwell." So, we get with Levi and we go over to that stairwell. We head up that stairwell and there's, uh, some security guards up at the top of the stairwell kinda holdin' the stairwell and so it's - it's Hancock, Bitsko, Newton, me, the guy from robbery and then we ran into two

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plainclothes with tact vests, uh, Matt Donaldson and I think his partner was Walford or Wallfer. So, there's us in that hallway of the stairwell. We're - uh, Levi's contacting control at this point. Um, so he wants the lights out so we're workin' on takin' the lights out so we don't - 'cause we know, at this point, the door we're gonna come through is gonna be the hallway and the suspect's door's gonna be immediately to our left and we know, at least through radio traffic, that there's already a team on that hallway coverin' down the long end of the hallway. So, we're tryin' to communicate. We got, uh, oh, it was, uh, Officer Burns was also in the hall - in the stairwell. So, Officer Jacoby Burns, he's gettin' on the phone with Matchko, tellin' Matchko, "Hey, we're in the stairwell, just so you know we're gonna poke our head out and see what's goin' on." So, uh, Levi pops open the door, takes a peek. Matchko acknowledges that we're in the hallway. Um, at this point, uh, we can see the - you can see the holes that come out of the suspect's doors. You can see that he's already fired out. Um, Levi decides that he's gonna use an explosive charge on the door. So, he calls - we get, um, Huddler on the phone and he lets Lieutenant Huddler know, "Hey, I wanna put a charge on the door, I wanna see what the response is from the suspect." Huddler, you can hear him over the phone, you couldn't hear all of it, but he says, "Hey, you know, do you need more SWAT guys," whatnot. He says, "No, I got six guys here, we're good." So, he sets up this charge, um, I think it was Bitsko goes with him. It might've been Newton, but they pop out in the hall and it's - it's only, like, a foot or two to the door - of the suspect, from our door. So, he pops out into the hall, places the charge, go back in, he blows the door.

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He lets us know, before he blows the door, he says, "Hey, once we blow this door," excuse me. "If there's no response, we're gonna open this up, we're just gonna roll in." So, blows the door, we get no gunfire out, anything like that. Now, where we are, there's the stairwell door, probably a - maybe a four foot room, like a - like a - I don't even know what to call it, it's just an access room to the second door that leads into the hallway, so we have two doors between us and the hallway, and then the suspect's door's on the left. So, we close both those. Levi blows the door and we - we get no response, so we let Matchko know, "Hey, we're rollin' in," 'cause we're gonna be comin' out quick and we don't want any - any friendly fire. So, blow open those doors, we roll in the - the suspect room. Um, I - I believe the stack was Levi first, Bitsko, Newton, me, Wallfer and then, uh, then, uh, Donaldson. Yeah, I believe that was the - the five that initially went - there mighta been one more guy. So, we roll in, um, initially, I believe it was Sergeant Bitsko and someone else went - there's a room - have you guys been in? Okay.

PQ: Mm-hm.

ST: So, the room to the left, they go to clear that extra room. I go with Levi and Donaldson and Walford to the right behind that little kitchen type area. We see a suspect on the ground. I clear the bathroom, come out, stacked on Levi and he says, "Hey, this door's locked." It's that other room. He says, "I need my other charge." So, I go out of the room, tell one of the guys in the stairwell, "Hey," 'cause there was some patrol guys still in the stairwell. I said, "I need Levi's other charge." So, they hand me the charge, I go back in, I hand it to Levi. At this point, I can't be sure if they

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came in behind us the first time or if it was after I came in with the - with Levi's other charge, but the other SWAT guy, I think it was O'Donnell, I'm not sure his name, and then Magsaysay. Officer Magsaysay. I know him 'cause he's at South Central. He's in tact gear, too. They come in, so now they're inside the room and Levi's um, settin' the charge on the second door. So, we're kinda behind that kitchen area, stacked up. He blows that second door, um, we roll into - I never - him and the other SWAT guy roll into that second room. I held the doorway. Um, 'cause his - it was kinda tight in there with - with the - the door blown up, so I held the doorway, they cleared the bathroom, they cleared the little bed area, and then we were done. We moved out from there. Um, after that, you know, most, uh, Bitsko and - and Newton and - and Levi were in the room doin' whatever they needed to do for - for a few minutes. They ended up leavin'. For the rest of the night, I sat on the room, security with Detective Conover. Um, I did go in with Sergeant Matchko for a long time. We were tryin' to gather intel for, uh, SWAT. He was on the phone with, I believe it was SWAT commander, I'm not sure exactly who he was on the phone with, but they were directin' us to try to get intel from the phones, laptops, things like that, so, um, I assisted with Matchko with that. So, that was about it.

PQ: Okay, so, um, when you guys were on the elevator to go up, essentially, you were in, uh, two strike teams, pretty much.

ST: There was - there was probably, I - I think there was, like, 10 guys.

PQ: Mm-hm.

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ST: And we kinda just said, "You, you, you, you, you - 28.. You, you, you - we'll go to 29."

PQ: Okay, so now when, uh, strike teams are split up, uh, you - you - your team starts on the 28th floor, right?

ST: Yeah.

PQ: So, as you guys are clearing, uh, 28, 29, getting to 30, when do you guys realize it's gonna be on the 32nd floor? Is it - someone say it, or did you guys hear anything?

ST: I - uh, Bitsko, we had said it pretty much the whole time, that we knew 32nd was probably the target floor, but because we heard 29 comin' into the hotel, we went to 28 first.

PQ: Okay.

ST: Once we were clear in there, we thought, just in case he got out and he got mobile, let's clear straight up instead of just jumpin' up to 32. So, and like I said, we got to 30 and there was another team, so we just skipped up to 31 I think it was, yeah.

PQ: Um, when you guys got up to 32nd, uh, did you - did you see any, like, security officers or...

ST: There was security in the stairwell. There was a couple officers, uniform officers in the stairwell. Um, oh, security had let us know that he had - he had bolted the door. So he, uh, Levi had, like, little mini-halogen tool, so we had to halogen the first door.

AU: Did security say that security bolted it or that the suspect bolted it?

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ST: I gotta be honest, I thought that he said he bolted it. The - the security guard bolted it, but, I can't be 100% sure that he said he bolted it or not. I can't think of a reason he would, but it sounded like that's what he said, but there was a lot goin' on, I'm not sure.

AU: Do you know if it was bolted in the hallway or in the firewall?

ST: From, um...

AU: Like, where would...

ST: It's hard for me to describe if I could, it's...

AU: If you were gonna bolt it, would you have to be standing in the hallway or the fire exit?

ST: You would have to be standing in that tiny little room. So, if - I don't know, I'll try to - I'll try to say it so you could get it on tape. But, like, here's the hallway, 'kay?

AU: Mm-hm.

ST: Suspect's door right here, okay? And this is the door - there's another door here. So, this room's only this big and then the...

PQ: Stairs.

ST: ...stairs are all here, okay?

AU: Mm-hm.

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ST: And a little walkway in here. So, this door was bolted with an L-bracket, like this here.

AU: Okay. So, this second door...

ST: Second door, and this was open, and this one was bolted.

AU: ...from the hallway. Was bolted on the hallway side.

ST: Yep.

AU: Okay.

ST: On the inside, in that little tiny...

AU: Okay.

ST: You know, 3 x 3 room.

PQ: Just so we can clarify, 'cause it's on tape, it's bolted on the stair side. So, everybody's on the stairs?

ST: No.

PQ: No?

ST: It's - if - if I'm comin' up the stairs, it's bolted on that door, but it's on the inside of that door.

PQ: So, you don't see it, so...

ST: We can't see it.

PQ: It's in the little firewall.

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ST: Yes.

PQ: Second door from the hallway, bolted on the hallway side.

ST: Yes. Yes. You would have to bolt it coming in from the hallway.

PQ: Okay.

ST: In one door then bolting that second door.

PQ: Okay.

AU: Did you see, after is all said and done.

ST: Yes.

AU: Did you see the bolt?

ST: Yeah, after it was said and done, it was, uh, I wanna say four screws on a - on a, maybe a two inch L-bracket.

AU: Okay.

ST: So, it was held from the - from the frame...

AU: Uh-huh.

ST: ...to the door. And it was just screwed in.

AU: When you were - from when you arrived to when you guys got up and Levi breached the door, at any time, did you hear any gunshots?

ST: Uh, no.

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AU: Okay. And then, when you were goin' from floor to floor, were you usin' the steps or the elevator?

ST: We were usin' stairs.

AU: Okay.

PQ: When you, um, I'm just goin' back. When you initially arrive, with the radio traffic and everything goin' on, could you hear gunfire, um, when you guys arrived?

ST: Um, you know what, I didn't hear any while we were outside at the Shark Reef, and I definitely didn't hear any when we were inside the casino. Um, but I wasn't outside the Shark Reef very long. It was, you know, we formed a team and went in pretty quick, so...

PQ: And then as far as, um, inside the actual, uh, the suspect's room, um, was there any shots fired?

ST: I believe, um, 'cause we thought there was a second suspect, um, after I heard this, like, uh, the second door that Levi breached, right when he breached it, I heard two rounds go off. I don't know who fired 'em, but that's initially what made us think there was someone in that second room, so we rolled in pretty quick, but I don't know who fired those.

PQ: And that second room, was it - was it empty?

ST: Yes, it was empty.

PQ: Okay, and then as far as, um, can you describe the condition of the room?

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ST: Um, what - all the rooms or just that one?

PQ: Just all of 'em, what you saw in there.

ST: Okay. Um, in the first initial main room we'll call it.

PQ: Mm-hm.

ST: I think it was, uh, 325, I think was the room number, I'm not sure. The first initial room, had - you want me to describe when I entered or after I had seen everything?

PQ: After.

ST: Okay. Um, suspect down with it looked like one gunshot wound to the face. Um, he was down with a revolver about two feet past his head. He was, um, he was down on his back, and feet facing east, head facing west.

PQ: Can you describe him?

ST: He was a white male, probably, uh, late fifties, early sixties. Um, dark clothing, pants and a shirt.

PQ: Okay, and then going back to the room?

ST: Uh, next to him was, like, a - a - I believe it was a - I'm not sure about the - the rifle type, but it was propped up on its, uh, bipod, it had a scope on it. He had - there had to be I'd say probably eight other guns, nine other guns in that main room, maybe more than that. There was - there was three or four stacked on two chairs that were put together. There was two U-sta- shaped chairs that were put together. There was about four or five guns, uh, rifles stacked in there. There was suitcases full of, uh,

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AR mags, or - or high capacity mags. Um, there was I don't know how many rounds they would hold, probably 50 to 100 round mags, stacked up near the window. There was guns on the couch. There was guns placed on each - like, each stool, bar stool that it had. Um, the whole room was wired. I - I have - honest - initially, when we rolled into that room, I thought it was wired with explosive, 'cause it was - we couldn't quickly tell that it was camera system, 'cause they - he has, like, um, he had duffle bags, or, uh, rolling suitcase bags with wires comin' out of 'em. It - it all, afterwards, seemed like it was attached to the camera system, but you couldn't tell at the time. Uh, that second room - the second actual hotel room had one gun on one bed and I think - I think one gun on each bed, maybe two on one bed, but there was gun on each bed, they were pointin' toward the window. That window was broken out. It faced, like, the - if you were lookin' at the concert area, it - it faced almost like the back of the stage. The room in which the suspect was down, the main room, that window was broken out and the - and the blinds were - or the curtains were flowin' and that one kinda faced directly east of the stage. The, um, bathroom was fairly normal. In that second room, he had a laptop set up with the camera system, and it was facin' the door. So, if we can backtrack to where we were comin' out that door, there's another door directly across and that was his second room. He had a camera system set up on a - on, like, a - a room service tray.

PQ: Okay.

ST: So, like a silver room service tray and he had cameras all set up here. He had, on the main door, he had a camera system set up on the peep hole. And all this was

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wired in to laptops that were in the h- in the room. In the adjacent room, to the main room, which was part of the main room, hotel room, to the left, there was - I didn't - I don't believe I saw any guns, I saw a lot of ammo boxes, like, empty, uh, rifle ammo boxes. But I didn't see any guns there. That was where his personal stuff was, like, a suitcase with some clothes and a laptop on the bed. It looked like, you know, just his personal items were in that room, so most - all the guns were in the main room and the second hotel room.

PQ: Okay, and then, um, my last question, just, um, that stack that went in, what was the configuration as far as like, um, uniforms, you know, 'cause we have K-9, SWAT, patrol officers, PD, so what - what was the actual configuration that you can remember?

ST: Um, I don't believe, in the initial entry, there was any uniformed patrol officers. There was, uh, Levi was first, he was in his SWAT greens, tactical vest greens. Uh, Sergeant Bitsko was in his K-9 greens. Newton was in his greens. I was in - in my plain clothes with the black tactical vest. Um, Donaldson was in a black tactical vest, plain clothes. The Walford or Walford, I'm not sure, um, how to spell it, but he was in a black tactical vest. Those were the si- that initially went in, yeah, no uniformed patrol officers.

PQ: Okay. Um, Detective Ubbens, you have any questions?

AU: Did, know, when Le- when you guys approached the door of that second room in the suite...

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ST: Yeah.

AU: Did Levi actually go and try to actually try and open the door, or...

ST: I was clearin' the bathroom.

AU: Okay.

ST: I know when I came out of the bathroom, he said, "It's locked."

AU: Okay.

ST: But I don't know if he went up or someone else went up, um, I think Walford was the only one else there, but it - I mean, it was dark, there's a lot of lights shinin' back and forth. I'm not sure who, if anybody checked it or - I was clearin' the bathroom.

AU: Okay.

PQ: And how were you guys takin' the lights out in the...

ST: We were - someone was tryin' to give instructions that if you squeeze these lights the plastic will come out and we can kinda break it.

PQ: Okay.

ST: 'Cause one patrol guy tried to break it and he was makin' so much noise...

PQ: 'Kay.

ST: We just decided that was a bad idea. We were tiffin' each other up and we eventually took Levi's halogen.

PQ: Okay.

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ST: Little - it's a little mini ha- and we just pried it out and, it ca- you know, the lights went out.

PQ: Okay.

ST: So...

PQ: Okay, um, Officer Hamm, do you have any questions.

MH: Just briefly, um, when you guys first entered the establishment and you met up with the other individuals, the other officers, was everyone easy to identify? Meaning, everyone was dressed up in some type of gear that identified them as an officer?

ST: Yeah, at no point did I - inter- interact with anybody that I couldn't distinguish as an officer.

MH: So, everyone that was in that group...

ST: They were either in tactical gear, readily identifiable or they were in a Metro uniform.

MH: Perfect. Thank you, that's all I have.

PQ: All right. Um, Operator, this is the end of the interview. Uh, same people are present. The time is 1820 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1820 HOURS.

PQ: AU: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032

Reviewed by S6878M
10/8/17

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